PSYC 101
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
FALL 2014

SECTION 001 TR 9:25AM-10:40AM HRZ 212
SECTION 002 TR 10:50AM-12:05PM DCH 1064

Professor:	Anton J. Villado, Ph.D.
Office:	SEW 429B
Phone:	713.348.3910
E-mail:	antonvillado@rice.edu
Website:	https://owlspace-ccm.rice.edu/portal
Office Hours:	T: 12:15PM-1:15PM, and by appointment

001 Teaching Assistants	Matthew Rottmann	Jackie Torres
Office:	SEW 429	SEW 429
Phone:	713.348.3902	713.348.3901
E-mail:	matthew.j.rottmann@rice.edu	jackietorres@rice.edu
Office Hours:	F: 10:30AM-11:30AM	M: 9:00AM-10:00AM

002 Teaching Assistant	Stephanie Zajac
Office:	SEW 429
Phone:	713.348.3902
E-mail:	stephanie.zajac@rice.edu
Office Hours:	W: 11:00AM-12:00PM

Required Text:	Myers, D. G. (2013). *Psychology* (10th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
Other Readings:	As assigned; available on OWL-Space
Prerequisites:	N/A

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive survey of topics, issues, and approaches in contemporary psychology. Topics will include, but are not limited to, the biological basis of behavior, sensation, perception, attention, learning and memory, thinking, language, abnormal behavior and therapies, personality and individual differences, and the various disciplines that exist within the field of psychology. Psychology is a broad field and therefore, this course will be broad in scope. Due to time restrictions, the topics will not be covered in great depth.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course will follow a lecture format, with questions and comments *expected* and *encouraged*. The material covered in the lectures will be organized in a manner similar to that in the textbook but ***WILL NOT*** duplicate the text word-for-word ***NOR*** topic-for-topic. In other words, the lectures and text will supplement each other to produce a comprehensive coverage of psychology than either lectures or text alone. At my discretion, I *may* post lecture notes on the course webpage.

COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION

Final course grades will be determined by your performance on three (3) thought papers, four (4) exams, one (1) comprehensive final exam, and completion of the research activity. The sum of points earned during the semester will be scaled to 100 (i.e., percentage) and the assignment of the letter grade will be determined by the following scale (rounded to whole percentage points):

Course Grade	Scaled Score (%)
A+	100-97
A	96-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80

Course Grade	Scaled Score (%)
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	Below 60

THOUGHT PAPERS

Three (3) thought papers will be assigned during the course. Each thought paper will be worth 20 course points. The materials and instructions necessary to complete the thought paper assignments will be posted on the OWL-Space course page.

Thought papers are to be submitted through the OWL-Space course page. ***Work submitted via e-mail or slipped under my office door <u>will not</u> be accepted.*** Assignments will incur a 10% penalty once they are late. An additional 10% penalty will be added every subsequent 24-hour period the assignment is past due. Once an assignment is over 9 days late (i.e., 100% point reduction), you will no longer be able to submit the work through OWL-Space. However, you may turn in the assignment to receive feedback (please contact me to coordinate such an arrangement).

EXAMS

Your score on all exams will be determined by multiplying the proportion of items answered correctly on the exam by the points possible for the exam.

Regular Exams: Four (4) regular exams, consisting of multiple-choice items will be given throughout this course. The four regular exams (each worth 100 points) are non-cumulative exams. The exams will cover material from the textbook (approximately four chapters), assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions, and will be administered during class. At the end of the term, your lowest regular exam score will be dropped, thus only your three highest exams scores will be used in calculating your course grade. Exams are proprietary, and therefore will not be returned to students. However, students may review their most recent exam and responses during office hours, or by appointment.

Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative and is worth 240 points. The score on the final may not be dropped. However, you may earn the opportunity to *opt out* of the final exam if you have, (a) taken all four regular term exams, and (b) earned 90% or more of the points on those four exams. If you are eligible to opt out of the final exam, and choose to do so, your final exam score will be the average of your ***four*** regular term exams.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Attendance at all exams is MANDATORY. Make-up exams will be given *ONLY* for absences considered appropriate and fair by the university's Committee on Examinations and Standing (e.g., serious illnesses, deaths in the immediate family, required court appearances). If your absence is considered ***appropriate and fair*** by the university's Committee on Examinations and Standing, I will coordinate with you to take a make-up exam during an alternate day and/or time.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Each student is required to participate in **five hours** of research activity. ***Failure to complete the research requirement before the specified deadline, using the Experimetrix subject pool website, will result in a 120 point reduction of their final course grade (two letter grade reduction)***. Partial credit will not be granted. Although serving as a participant in psychology experiments is one way to gain valuable research knowledge, such participation is always voluntary. Therefore, there are two ways of satisfying the research requirement:

1. **Subject Pool Participation**

   Each student may fulfill their research activity by participating in a total of five hours of research though the Department of Psychology's subject pool. Participating in any combination of research activity that sums to five hours will fulfill the research activity requirement.

   Students may sign-up for participation in psychology experiments by going to http://experimetrix.com/Rice/ and clicking on "new.user" to create an account, or "sign.up" to volunteer to be a participant. Be sure to read the help.me and read.me documents posted on the subject pool website. **Please note, it is imperative that you assign your credit to the appropriate course; *credit will not be considered unless it is assigned to this course* (PSYC 101.001 or PSYC 101.002*) before the deadline to assign credit has passed*. Students are advised to participate in research as early as possible to avoid being unable to find vacancies at the end of the semester.**

2. Research Reports

Students who do not wish to participate or are legally unable to participate in psychology experiments may fulfill their research activity requirement by writing three two-page research reports on psychological research articles **assigned by me (Dr. Villado)**. Research reports will receive grades of satisfactory or unsatisfactory. **Contact me on or before September 25th, 2014 if you wish to fulfill your research activity requirement by writing research reports**. All research reports must be submitted to me on or before the last day of class.

EXTRA CREDIT

Each student is allowed to earn up to 12 extra credits points. Extra credit may be used to raise a student's grade but not to achieve a passing grade. A student must achieve a minimum of 60% of the total course points ***before*** extra credit is applied. Extra credit points may be earned as follows:

1. Additional Subject Pool Participation (6 Points of Extra Credit)

Each student is allowed to earn up to six (6) extra credit points by participating in six additional hours of psychology experiments after the first five have been completed. Students will earn one (1) point for every one (1) hour of research participation.

2. Quizzes and Exercises (6 Points of Extra Credit)

There may occasionally be both announced and unannounced quizzes and exercises. These are optional; there will be no penalty for not completing them, and they cannot be made up if you are absent on the day that they are administered or due. The points you earn for extra credit will be determined by multiplying the proportion of extra credit completed by six (6) points. Thus, if you complete all of the extra credit opportunities, six points will be added to your course points.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Given that a substantial portion of the material covered by each test will come from the lectures, class attendance is **MANDATORY**. However, attendance will not be formally monitored and there will be no direct penalty for absences; ***attendance is an individual student responsibility***. To do well in this course, you ***must*** attend all of the lectures.

ADVERSE EVENTS

If any event causes Rice University to be officially closed (weather, security threat, etc.) during a schedule exam, the exam will be rescheduled for the next meeting time, unless otherwise noted.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE

My policy governing withdrawal from the course is consistent with university regulations.

RICE UNIVERSITY REQUIRED STATEMENTS

1. The information contained in this course syllabus, other than the absence policies, is subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as I deem appropriate.

2. The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. The term "handouts" includes all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless the professor expressly grants permission to do so.

3. All exams and assignments (including extra credit assignments) are covered by Rice University's Honor Code and the guidelines given in the Blue Book. Please feel free to share notes, or form study groups. **However, you are to complete exams and assignments without any outside aid**. Of course you may read and must cite relevant material, but you are not to seek aid from others. Students are encouraged to bring any concerns involving academic integrity to the attention of the instructor.

4. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. **In this course, you are expected to cite all work that is not your own**, in accordance with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Ed.). If you have any concerns, please speak to me before you submit the work in question.

5. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a documented disability, please contact me during the first two weeks of this course to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Lay Student Center. Visit www.dss.rice.edu for more information about services on campus for persons with disabilities.

TENTATIVE TOPIC DATES AND TEST CONTENT

Date	Day	Chapter	Content
08/26/14	T	P	The Story of Psychology
08/28/14	R	1	Thinking Critically . . .
09/02/14	T	2	The Biology of the Mind
09/04/14	R		
09/09/14	T	3	Consciousness and the Two–Track Mind
09/11/14	R		
09/16/14	**T**		**Exam I**
09/18/14	R	4	Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity
09/23/14	T	5	Developing Through the Life Span
09/25/14	R		
09/30/14	T	6	Sensation and Perception
10/02/14	R	7	Learning
10/07/14	T		
10/09/14	**R**		**Exam II**
10/14/14	***T***		***Midterm Recess***
10/16/14	R	8	Memory
10/21/14	T	10	Intelligence
10/23/14	R		
10/28/14	T	13	Personality
10/30/14	R		
11/04/14	T	12	Emotions, Stress, and Health
11/06/14	**R**		**Exam III**
11/11/14	T	11	Motivation & Work
11/13/14	R		
11/18/14	T	15	Psychological Disorders
11/20/14	R	16	Therapy
11/25/14	T	14	Social Psychology
11/27/14	***R***		***Thanksgiving Recess***
12/02/14	T		
12/04/14	**R**		**Exam IV**
TBA	**TBA**		**Final Exam**